

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. In this Amendment no claims are amended, claims 23-45 are added, and claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21 are canceled (claims 9, 20 and 22 were previously canceled). As a result, claims 23-45 are now pending in the application. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the disclosure, for example, at pages 8-10 of the specification.

The non-final Office Action of March 6, 2008 withdraws the indication of allowable subject matter and rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 13-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-6, 17-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent 6,901,493 (Maffezzoni) and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,430,663 (Ding). Claims 7-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of so-called Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) and further in view of Published U.S. Patent Application 20030229768 (Kawano) and yet further in view of Maffezzoni. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Kawano and further in view of Maffezzoni. The rejections are obviated by the present amendments.

Discussion of Application Subject Matter

As discussed in the Background section of the present application conventional systems suffer from certain drawbacks that are overcome by the present invention. For example, conventional save and restore procedures save only the user accessible areas of a storage device, and fail to save the protected HPA (host protected areas) of the storage device. Maffezzoni, Ding

and Kawano are examples of such conventional systems, and as such, do not back up the protected areas of a storage device. Backing up the protected areas entails booting the device into the protected area, copying its contents to an unprotected user area, and then rebooting into the user area.¹ The conventional devices do not teach or suggest this approach.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the features of the claims are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

¹ Specification page 9 and FIG. 2, block 250 and 260. See specification page 5.

Deposit Account Authorization / Provisional Time Extension Petition

It is believed that no extension of time is required for this filing and the accompanying Fee Transmittal attends to the required fees. However, to the extent necessary, a provisional petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-0439 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. However, in the event there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact applicant's representative, Scott Richardson, by telephone at (571) 970-6835 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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